

Halloween Safety

Halloween is an exciting time of the year for children and families. Visiting pumpkin patches, haunted houses, and Trick-or-Treating are mainstays during the month of October. By following a few safety measures, the Halloween season can be made enjoyable for all.

Halloween and Trick-or-Treat Safety

- Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.
- Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats eaten in one sitting.
- Use a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help increase visibility in the dark. Always walk and do not run from house to house.
- Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.
- Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers. If unsure about certain treats, hospitals and clinics may offer free X-rays of candy.
- Enter homes only if you are with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Do not stop at dark houses. Never accept rides from strangers.



- Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

Expecting Trick-or-Treaters or party guests

- Provide healthier treats for trick-or-treaters such as low-calorie treats and drinks. For party guests, offer a variety of fruits, vegetables, and cheeses.
- Use party games and trick-or-treat time as an opportunity for kids to get their daily dose of 60 minutes of physical activity.
- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles that could result in falls.
- Keep candle-lit jack o' lanterns and luminaries away from doorsteps, walkways, landings, and curtains. Place them on sturdy tables, keep them out of reach of pets and small children, and never leave them unattended.
- Remind drivers to watch out for trick-or-treaters and to drive safely.

Pumpkin carving and decorating

- Small children should never carve pumpkins. Children can draw a face with markers, then have an adult do the carving.
- Older children should be allowed to use knives only with adult supervision.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, candles, and heaters.
- Consider using a flashlight or glow stick instead of a candle to light your pumpkin if it is displayed near dry foliage or other flammable decorations.
- Candlelit pumpkins or jack o' lanterns should be kept away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush against the flame.
- Indoor jack o' lanterns should be placed on a sturdy table, away from curtains, decorations, and other furnishings that could be ignited.
- Never leave a candlelit pumpkin or jack o' lantern anywhere unattended.